

10/700,497

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated March 22, 2005. For the following reasons, this application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue.

Claim 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. This rejection has been obviated by the amendments made to claims 1-16 to address the particular informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinada, et al. (Hereafter "Shinada"). This rejection is hereby traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested. The following is a comparison of the present invention as claimed with the Shinada reference.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1, for example, relates to a navigation device to be installed on a vehicle and which enables information to be provided to an occupant of the vehicle. The navigation device comprises a display section displaying an image to an occupant of the vehicle and a speech recognition section. Speech recognition processing is performed by the speech recognition section to recognize a voice input relating to a speech recognition object word. The speech recognition processing includes second speech recognition processing to be executed when a failure occurs in recognition as to the speech recognition object word present in the image currently displayed in the display section. The speech recognition object word is used except for the speech recognition object word present in the image currently displayed in the display section. The information providing processor section compels a predetermined image to be displayed on the display section based on a recognized content resulting through the speech recognition processing

10/700,497

when the speech recognition object word is recognized through the speech recognition processing.

With such a system as claimed, the speech recognition object word can be easily and surely designated by the occupant of the vehicle. The applied reference does not make obvious these claimed features of the present invention.

Shinada, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0060937, relates to a vehicle information processing device, vehicle, and vehicle information processing method. In order to communicate a vehicle situation to a driver, the "virtual feelings" of the vehicle is expressed on a display unit as a predetermined character's facial expression. The reference basically attempts to express the pseudo feelings of a vehicle while personifying the vehicle. However, Shinada is completely silent as to the specific structure and steps of the present invention in which a speech recognition object word present in the image of the display section is used. Shinada fails to show a second speech recognition processing that is executed when a failure occurs in recognition as to the speech recognition object word present in the image currently displayed in the display section, while using the speech recognition object word other than for the speech recognition object word present in the image currently displayed in the display section.

Since Shinada fails to make obvious the claims of the present invention, the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §103(a) should be reconsidered and withdrawn and such action is courteously solicited.

In light of the amendments and remarks above, this application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

10/700,497

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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